

Dear Wildlife Disturbance Working Group Member,

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is undertaking a review of its initial management plan. A decade of experience protecting the marine ecosystem and working with the community has helped us to identify issues and strategies that should potentially be incorporated into our management scheme. Over the last year and a half these issues were further honed over a series of public scoping meetings and workshops with our Sanctuary Advisory Council. From this process we have identified fifteen specific issues that we will seek additional public input on in a working group format. This working group will help the Sanctuary further define the potential strategies and actions to address the issue of wildlife disturbance.

We want to thank each of you for agreeing to lend your expertise to this issue and we look forward to working with you over the coming months. The enclosed attachments are to provide you with background information regarding the Sanctuary, the management plan review process, and the issue of wildlife disturbance. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with as much of this material as possible before our first meeting on January 17th. We appreciate the value of your time and it is our aim to make this first meeting as substantive as possible. Attached you will find the following materials in PDF format:

- Wildlife Disturbance Issue Background
- Scoping Comments Related to the Issue of Wildlife Disturbance
- Roles and Responsibilities of Working Group Members
- Working Group Consensus Based Decision Making
- Agenda for January 17th

I hope that you find these documents useful in understanding the purpose and objectives of the management plan review and working group processes. If you have any questions before the meeting please feel free to contact me at 831-647-4207, or via email at deirdre.hall@noaa.gov. There is also a section of our website that will be devoted to postings, contacts, and information specific to each working group at <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan>. Again, the first meeting is Friday, January 17th from 1:00 to 5:00 at the Sanctuary office at 299 Foam Street in Monterey. I look forward to seeing you then.

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Sincerely,

Deirdre Hall

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

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